Behind the Walls of Great Prisons in the Civil War

Thrilling Adventures and Ingenious Plots to Escape Revealed on This Semi-Centennial—First Authentic Investigations Into Prisons and Prison Life Show That America Is the Most Humane of All the Nations in Time of War—Celebrations Held on the Historic Old Prison Grounds Throughout the North and the South.

THE first authentic investigations into the prisons of the American Civil War have just been completed by a board of eminent authorities. This has been a point of contention which has not been fully clarified until this semi-centennial, when both Northern and Southern researchers have joined hands in an endeavor to discover the actual truth.

The records in the War Department at Washington show that nearly a tenth of the entire Federal army was captured and held as prisoners of war. The Confederate researchers state that as nearly as they can compute from their existing records about a third of their soldiers were forced to experience the hardship of prison life.

The actual figures from all sources show an average estimate of 270,000 Federals held in Southern prisons and 220,000 Confederates held in Northern prisons. Gathered into one community they would make a city larger than the great industrial centre of Buffalo, or nearly two cities the size of Kansas City, more than three the size of Atlanta, or four the size of Richmond. There are but six great American cities to-day that exceed in population the citizenship of the "prisons" of the Civil War.

Fifty Thousand Men Die in Captivity.

There has been a controversy for many years regarding the number of deaths in prisons during the war. A conscientious effort has been made in the last few weeks to make an estimate that could be agreed upon by both claimants. Evidence has been collected from every known source which results in the estimate that 26,436 Confederates and 22,576 Federal soldiers lost their lives in captivity.

These figures, appalling as they may seem, are quite the contrary when compared with the other great wars of the world. The very nature of war is such that it always imposes much suffering and hardship. War is in itself a system of bloodshed and horror. When it is considered that the greatest volunteer armies in the world's history were gathered in the American Civil War it is at least gratifying to find that it was more humane, as a whole, than any other war in the annals of mankind.

Most Humane War in All History.

It is significant that neither the British nor the American governments have delved into the prison records of the Revolution—they are too horrible. The evidence that exists, however, in relation to British prison ships is a revelation of torture that would make the stories of the prisons of the Civil War pale in comparison.

The prisons of the War of 1812 were fails of brutality. The stories of the prison at Dartmoor are almost unbelievable. In both the British wars the governments frowned upon a disclosure of the sufferings. It made war too barbaric; it took the chivalry out of soldiery. In partial reparation last year an American patriotic society, in conjunction with one in England, erected a monument at Dartmoor in memory of the American and French prisoners who died there.

This is simply an insight into the bloody history of all wars. In the earliest combats all captives were executed or sold into slavery. In later epochs they were held for exorbitant ransom. When it became necessary to hold them for exchange they were starved or treated like beasts. This is the record of all wars before the American Revolution—and it still is the record of some wars to-day, such as the recent Turkish-Italian atrocities.

150 Military Prisons Crowded With Men.

The recent investigations show that whatever unfortunate conditions may have arisen during the American Civil War there was at least a more general endeavor to uphold the principles of humanity than in any other war up to that time. It was a tremendous task to endeavor to hold a half million strong men in captivity without any previous preparation and in frequent instances without resources for feeding or housing them. That this attempt was made, however, is proved by the fact that there were over 150 "military prisons" in operation during the Civil War. Both governments were forced to meet the overwhelming difficulties according to their resources. They utilized everything that came within their reach—abandoned warehouses, former jails, tobacco houses, instruction camps, spaces devoted to State fairs, or the open fields. Disease and hunger frequently secured the upper hand; human nature was tested to the uttermost; and at times individuals became brutal—but through it all it is found that both governments were struggling to bear the burdens.

Sight-Seeing Trip to Famous Prisons.

It is interesting on this semi-centennial to visit these old prison grounds, which, in many instances, still stand as shrines for thousands of old soldiers who are now making pilgrimages to the scenes of their captivity.

The largest prison in area in the North was located at Point Lookout, Md. It was a great city of tents which held as many as 20,000 prisoners at one time. It arose like magic to hold the soldiers who were being marched daily into its strange streets which led through long avenues of white canvas. This histiric ground stands vividly today in the memories of hundreds of gray-haired warriors throughout the South who were held captives within its gates.

The largest prison in area in the South was at Andersonville, Ga. This, too, is one of the best known of the prisons of the Civil War because it witnessed the greatest difficulties. It was an overflow prison erected toward the end of the war to meet an overwhelming emergency. The original plan for Andersonville was designed with much engineering skill. It was a stockade enclosing seventeen acres, built in a warm climate, which it was believed would meet the emergency for the short time that the war was expected to last.

Never before in the history of warfare has there been such a test of a prison's capacity. During the first month it held 7,500, which allowed 100 square feet fo reach man. As the burdens of war increased the number soon became 10,000; then 15,000, and finally 22,000 men were crowded into its enclosure.

Largest Prison on American Soil.

The stockade was enlarged until it included twenty-seven acres, but the flood of prisoners grew in even greater proportion until in August, 1864, there were 32,899 prisoners at Andersonville and the Confederate government was taxed beyond its power to maintain its burden of war. The total number of prisoners at Andersonville during the war reached 45,485, of which 12,800 died.

To-day this historic ground, which testifies even more emphatically than any battlefield to the ravages of war, is visited by tens of thousands of tourists. Monuments have been erected by many States in the North and the dedication ceremonies are attended by prominent Southerners, uniting in brotherhood over his altar of sacrifice.

Most Famous Prison in the North.

The most famous prison in the North was the "Old Capitol" at Washington, which stood in the shadow of the national capitol. It was first built to house the national Congress after the British had destroyed the capitol in the War of 1812. Later it became a boarding-house and was finally abandoned. When the war began a shoemaker and his family were the only occupants.

Six months after Fort Sumter it was crowded almost to overflow with prisoners of State, spies, citizens suspected of disloyalty, and a few government officials. It was here that the four conspirators in the assassination of President Lincoln were confined, and later were executed on the scaffold in the prison yard. Captain Wirz, keeper of Andersonville, also was executed at this prison.

During the war days the Old Capitol prison was a point of much interest to sightseers, but they were ruthlessly hurried on by guards stationed outside the building when they halted for even a moment on either side of the street.

Historic Prisons in Richmond.

The most famous prison in the South was located at Richmond. It is historic old Libby, which stood at the corner of Twentieth and Cary Streets. Before the war it had been William, Libby & Son's establishment, where they conducted a ship chandler's business. It was a brick building three stories high. The lower half of the structure was painted white, or whitewashed.

In this large building nearly 12,500 Federals, mostly officers, were held captive. A rude bath-room was installed, and the walls were whitewashed. But the increasing number of captives soon prevented even these sanitary precautions.

Richmond also had a provost prison, which was known as Castle Thunder. It may have been this place to which the cavalier General Stuart referred when he sang his humorous song, "My Wife's in Castle Thunder." It was a three-story brick building, which had been a tobacco factory.

Like the Old Capitol prison at Washington, a large Confederate camp-prison was erected in sight of the capitol of the Confederacy at Richmond. It was known as Belle Isle and was situated on that island in the James River. The shelter consisted of tents intended to house 3,000 prisoners, but its burden frequently exceeded 6,000.

Quaint Old Prisons in the West.

Among the most famous prisons in the West is Camp Morton. It was located at Indianapolis, Ind., and was first used as a camp of instruction for Indiana troops. The captured Confederates from the battle fields of Forts Henry and Donelson, and later Western battles, were brought here and placed in the sheds where formerly horses and cattle were housed during fair days. Many soldiers who were not accustomed to rigors of a Northern winter succumbed.

The old Rock Island prison stood opposite Davenport, Iowa, in the Mississippi River. It was situated on the island, which is about three miles long and a half mile wide. The records show that from 5,000 to 8,000 prisoners were held here at all times during the war. Eighty-four barracks were erected for the confinement of the captives, and they were arranged in six rows of fourteen each. They were long, narrow rambling buildings, measuring twelve feet high, twenty-two wide and eighty-two long. Each end of a barrack was partitioned off to form a cookhouse. A scourge of smallpox swept the prisons and a hospital was erected at a cost of $175,000.

Chicago also has its prison memories. Camp Douglas, an instruction camp in that city, was turned into a prison to hold the overflow. It holds the mortality record for a single month, losing 10 per cent. (387) of its inmates within that time. Camp Chase, at Columbus, Ohio, and Camp Butler, at Springfield, Ill., were also hastily prepared prisons much like Camp Morton in layout.

St. Louis recalls many prison reminiscences on this semi-centennial. The Federal provost-prison in the West was located on Gratiot Street. Formerly it had been the McDowell Medical College, built in 1847 by Dr. J. M. McDowell. The capacity of this prison was 500, but frequently it held over 1,000. The inmates twice set fire to the building in hope to escape during the confusion. Tunneling, as in other prisons, was resorted to, but few escapes are recorded against this bastile.

Huge Prisons in the Far North.

The most Northern of the Federals' prisons was that of Fort Johnson, in Sandusky Bay, Lake Erie, about two and a half miles from the city of Sandusky, Ohio. A fence was built to enclose seventeen acres on Johnson Island and two-story rude barracks were erected. A war-time photograph of this hostoric jail shows numerous cannon pointing at the barracks to quell an outbreak if it should be attempted.

covering forty acres. A board fence surrounded the numerous barracks. On the outside of the fence a platform, about two-thirds up from the bottom of the fence, ran around the stockade. Here the sentry paced as he guarded the captives. At regular intervals sentry boxes were located wherein the sentry could rest in inclement weather. The record books of the prison show that during the war 12,122 prisoners were received. Nearly 3,000 died, seventeen escaped, and 218 were in the hospital on July 1, 1865.

Ancient Forts Used as Prisons.

The forts on the coast were utilized by the United States as prisons. Fort Warren, in Boston harbor, became a military post and bears the distinction of being the best conducted prison of the war, it being the only one of which the inmates all seem to have words of praise.

In New York harbor there are two forts that served as military prisons during the war—Fort Lafayette and Fort Columbus. In Patapsco River, Maryland, is Fort McHenry, which served as a military prison. It was while this historic old fort, built in 1794, was under bombardment by the British in 1814 that Francis Scott Key wrote his memorable national song, "The Star Spangled Banner." Fort Delaware, situated on Pea Patch Island, in the Delaware River, was one of the most dreaded forts in the North to the Confederate captive.

A Prison-Fort Which Cost Over $50,000.

Historic old Castle Pinckney, in Copper River, opposite Charleston, S. C., was another fortified prison. It was a circular structure, built of brick, at a cost of $53,809, many years before the Civil War, and was the only fort-prison in the Confederacy. It was guarded by the Charleston Zouave Cadets, an organization of youths. Castle Pinckney has the distinction of not having a single escape of a prisoner chronicled against her.

Thousands of men still living on this anniversary can testify to their experiences and adventures in these old prisons. It took a man of iron nerve to stand the hardships or the long monotony of captivity, whether in the North or the South.

The prisoner arose merely to eat and wait. He began his breakfast when food was to be had, and then waited for dinner, which might come some time during the afternoon. Two meals were all that were served in most of the prisons. Both governments tried to give their prisoners the same fare that was served to the soldiers in the field. In the South it became impossible to maintain this plan, either in the field or in the prisons. The navy gradually closed in on the coasts and cut off importations; the Federal armies devastated the farm lands of the South, and what they did leave was even insufficient to support the fighting armies of the Confederacy.

Games and Pastimes of Prisoners.

Prison camps became little cities. There were plutocrats—the possessors of a frying pan or some such luxury, which he could rent to other prisoners. Merchants were symbolized by the vendors who traded about the tents with articles to wear or eat. Some squatted before a mound of beans or mush, which they called to the attention of the prisoners. Others maintained restaurants, while several were the proprietors of wood yards, where fuel could be purchased by those who had money.

Some of the prisoners, as in all community life, had a corner on the available cash. The medium of exchange was usually gambling, for the inmates frequently became inveterate card players. A pack of cards on which the spots had nearly disappeared made the possessor immediately an object of envy. Checkers and chess early found favor, and as the men had twenty-four hours of time on their hands, they became experts in the game. A rough piece of plank, patiently planed with a pocket-knife, and marked off in squares, served as the board. Carving became an industry, and some of the work produced was marvelous, when the tools—a single knife—are considered. Gutta percha buttons and beef bones, which had been licked clean, were magically converted into some form of adornment under skilful hands.

What the Prisoners Talk About.

The most "talked of" subject in all prisons was not the war, but how to escape and the possibilities of exchange. In several instances the officers who were serving as prisoners of war conceived the idea of debating societies. On Johnson's Island the Confederate officers formed a government, with a house of representatives, and here questions on international law were threshed out. In other prisons classes in French were organized and presided over by some officer proficient in the language. Dancing and music classes also served to pass away the heavy hours.

At Fort Lafayette, New York, and in Camp Ford, Texas, also in a Richmond prison, the inmates issued newspapers filled with "local" news and written in long hand. At Fort Delaware the Rev. I. K. Handy conducted religious services among the Confederate prisoners whenever he could gather a group of listeners.

Ingenious Escapes From Prison Walls.

The stories of the ingenious escapes from the prisons of the Civil War would baffle the cleverest detectives. There were dynamite plots that would have taxed the ingenuity of such a man as Burns. One of the most dramatic of these scenes occurred at Libby Prison, in Richmond, when 105 officers fled to safety. One of the officers discovered a passage into a storeroom in the basement. The secret was kept religiously among a few, while several of them dropped into the room and began to remove the stones from the eastern wall, which faced the street. Across the thoroughfare was a vacant lot surrounded by a board fence. It was decided to attempt to tunnel under the street. As the gigantic plot progressed the excavated dirt was hidden in a dark corner where no one ever passed. Day after day the few human moles burrowed under the thoroughfare of Richmond, their operations shrewdly concealed from the guards. After digging thirty feet from the basement the tunnel was turned upward and a slight hole appeared in the roof. An old shoe was placed near the opening to enable watchers from the prison windows to determine how much further the tunnel had to be extended to pass under the fence.

Prisoners Tunnel Under Street in Richmond.

On the night of February 9, 1864, the tunnel was completed. The news was quietly passed around, and in the dim recesses of the basement a dramatic scene was taking place. Men, wild with the thought of escape, fought like demons to be the next to enter the tunnel, which was only wide enough to allow a man to lie on his face and pull with his hands while he pushed with his feet. In this way the men crawled for about fifty-three feet until they came to the opening in the lot. While the escapes were taking place an officer stood by the opening into the basement and whispered to each soldier as his turn came:

"Feet first; back to the wall; get down on your knees; make a half-face to the right, and grasp the spike in the wall below with your right hand, lower yourself down; feel for the knotted rope below with your legs."

The prisoner, following directions, would then drop into a bed of straw, and cross to the tunnel opening. Only one man was allowed in the tunnel at a time, and as it required about three minutes to pass through the tunnel, considerable time was lost, and the waiting men still on the inside only restrained themselves with the greatest impatience.

After 105 officers had passed to safety, the noise of the struggling men in the basement warned the guards that something was wrong, and they investigated, finding the tunnel. Searchers started on the trails of the escaped prisoners and a majority were recaptured. Those who evaded recapture had a fearful experience before they finally won their way through to the Federal lines on the Pamunkey River.

During Escape from Salisbury Prison.

One of the most daring plots occurred in the old and abandoned cotton warehouse at Salisbury, N. C., which was used as a Confederate prison. Three Northern newspaper correspondents were held as prisoners of war in the crowded bastile. Two of them, J. H. Browne and W. T. Davies, became trusted prisoners and were given passes that would admit them to hospital dispensary on the outside of the prison. There was still another line of guards, however, that stood between them and liberty. The inner guards had become accustomed to the two men passing, and soon did not require them to show their passes. It was in this fact that the correspondents saw an avenue of escape and bringing out their companion scribe who was without this privilege.

On the winter evening of December 17, 1864, Browne loaned his pass to Richardson, the third of the correspondents, and the three walked to the gate, taking with them a boy who carried a box filled with medicine bottles. When they reached the gate, Richardson turned to the boy, saying in a loud voice for the benefit of the sentinel:

"I am going outside to get these bottles filled. I shall be back in fifteen minutes, and want you to remain right here to take and distribute them among the hospitals. Do not go away."

"Yes, sir," exclaimed the lad as Richardson turned to pass the sentry. But the latter held his musket before the man.

"Have you a pass, sir?" he asked.

"Certainly I have a pass," replied Richardson. "Have you not seen it enough to know it by this time?"

The assurance of the man confused the sentinel.

"Perhaps I have," he replied, "but they are strict with us, and I am not quite sure."

The pass was examined and Richardson was allowed to pass. The other two were passed on recognition. A line of guards still barred their way in the twilight. The two companions went direct to the dispensary and Richardson dropped under a convenient shelter to wait for darkness. When night came he slipped through the guard and found Browne and Davies on the road. They were scantily clad for such weather and tramping. Seven days after leaving Salisbury they found that they had covered fifty miles. The story of their narrow escapes from recapture are thrilling. Twenty-seven days after their escape from the prison, Richardson reached Knoxville, Tenn., having traveled more than 340 miles before he was safe from pursuit.

General Morgan's Escape From Prison.

The escape from the State Penitentiary of Ohio, at Columbus, in which the prisoners dug through two feet of solid masonry with two table knives is one of the most thrilling on record. Among these prisoners was General John H. Morgan, who was captured in his famous raid in Kentucky and Ohio. With several of his officers he was locked in strong cells between the hours of 5 P. M. and 7 A. M. During the day they were allowed to leave their cells and walk in the long corridor. A solid stone wall thirty feet high and four feet thick enclosed the prison yard and buildings. The cells were arranged in tiers. General Morgan was on the second tier. Captain Hines, with others, including General Morgan's brother, occupied cells on the lower tiers.

The confinement wore on the cavaliers, and they racked their brains for a plan of escape. Hines, by accident, discovered a method. He noticed that the walls of his cell were dry.

"If they rested on the ground as the others do," he exclaimed, "they would be damp."

He reasoned that there must be an air chamber underneath. The discovery was passed on to his comrades, and they agreed. Two tables knives were obtained from sick comrades in the hospital, and Hines began his work. To prevent discovery by an inspection of his cell, he obtained permission to sweep his own cell. The cleanliness pleased the guards and he was permitted thereafter to take care of it himself.

Digging Through Masonry With Knives.

Beginning underneath his cot, Hines patiently dug at the masonry until he had removed six inches of cement and six layers of brick. The opening disclosed the air chamber as he had foretold.

"We will now dig a tunnel through the prison foundation," he exclaimed, "and bring it to the surface in some unfrequented spot in the prison yard."

This operation was performed by Hines's comrades while he stood guard at the cell door. His attitude was one of deep interest in the book he was reading, while, in fact, his eyes were sweeping the corridor and his ears were strained to catch the first sign of an approaching guard. By a system of taps on the cell door he was to warn the workers of danger. With the completion of the tunnel there was still a serious problem. There must be an entrance from the other ground floor cells into the tunnel. This must be done by cutting through the masonry floor into each cell. But exact measurements had to be made.

Clever Schemes to Get Information.

This difficulty was overcome by a most ingenious ruse. The prisoners involved the warden in a dispute about the length of the corridor, and when the measure was produced Captain Hines "borrowed" it unseen, long enough to answer their purposes. It was still necessary, however, that accurate knowledge of the prison yard be known. It could not be seen from the prison windows. Fortunately for the conspirators, the warden at that time ordered walls and ceiling to be cleaned. A long ladder was produced for this purpose. Taylor, one of the prisoners, saw the opportunity and again resorted to strategem.

"I'll wager," he exclaimed to a guard, "that I can climb hand over hand to the top of the ladder and down again without touching the ladder with my feet."

"You' can't do it," replied the guard.

Taylor made the attempt, and while resting at the top of the ladder on the upward trip he viewed the conditions in the prison yard. Incidently, Taylor won the wager.

From accomplices on the outside they finally succeeded in obtaining money and information regarding the time a train would leave for Cincinnati. Then their preparations were complete, all but bringing General Morgan to the lower tier. There was no egress from the second row, where the general was locked up each night. This was overcom by Morgan's brother exchanging places with him.

Climbing Down Rope of Bedclothes From Cell.

The night of November 27, 1864, was intensely dark, and the men decided to try their fate. The passage from cell to tunnel and to prison yard was made without mishap. It was a difficult task, for the tunnel was only eighteen inches wide and thirty inches deep. A rope was made of strips of bedclothes. A grappling iron made of an iron poker was thrown over the wall, and each man swarmed up and dropped on the other side.

Of the seven men who escaped, two were later caught. Morgan boarded the Cincinnati train, sitting beside a Union major dressed in full uniform. As the train bore the escaped prisoners past their recent place of residence, the major turned to Morgan and remarked:

"That is where the rebel General Morgan is now imprisoned."

"Indeed," said the general. "I hope they will always keep him as safely as they have him now."

The Southerners found it best to leave the train at Dayton before reaching Cincinnati, for they found that it would be daylight when they arrived. All but two won through to the Confederate lines. The escape created one of the greatest sensations of the war—how it was possible to escape from that strong bastile it was difficult to understand at that time.

Escape Through 8-Inch Loophole in Boston.

There was an escape from old Fort Warren, in Boston harbor, in which a young lad, slender but courageous, escaped through a loophole scarcely over eight inches in diameter. Just as he landed two sentinels came. Lieutenant Alexander, the youth, slipped into the water and lay motionless. One sentinel thought he saw a suspicious object and extended his bayoneted gun until the point pricked the lad. But he remained motionless until the two had passed. He then swam to a small island and boarded a fishing smack, but was captured and again placed within Fort Warren.

The prison guards were always on guard for tunnels, as this seemed the favorite method of escape. In some prisons the inmates burrowed like rabbits—numerous defeats could not destroy their hopes. It was at the Salisbury prison that an officer making the rounds suddenly sank to his waist in a tunnel—the digger had neglected to leave a strong roof.

Tunneling, in some prisons, became a game of wits. Andersonville has a story of a prisoner who started a tunnel from his hut. A spy evidently informed the guard and a sergeant came to investigate. With a steel ramrod he prodded the ground, while the prisoners looked on innocently. At last his divining rod sank into the excavation, and a negro was sent to discover how far the tunnel progressed. The negro brought back the box in which the dirt had been removed.

"Hello," exclaimed the sergeant, "that is the third time I have caught that same box. Take it and go to work somewhere else, boys!"

One of the longest tunnels on record is that dug by Confederates—Sergeant Benson and his comrades at Elmira. It extended for sixty-six feet and required two months in digging. Benson and nine soldiers safely navigated the tunnel and escaped at 4 o'clock in the morning. After that sentries not only patroled the elevated walk around the stockade, but also in the street outside.

Humorous Plots in Prison Tragedies.

There is one instance where the powers of a ventriloquist enabled a squad of prisoners to escape. The squad had been detailed to bury a corpse. One of the detail was a ventriloquist. The body was placed in the grave, and the earth began to fill the hole. Apparently the dead man began to protest, for muffled cries and oaths came from the grave. The prison guards gave one look at each other and then fled, while the prisoners did likewise, but in a different direction.

The expedients of some plotters showed great courage. As a rule the hospitals were outside the stockade and were insecurely guarded. The keepers took it for granted that a patient in the hospital was too weak to go far. The prisoners soon discovered this and went so far as to thrust red-hot needles or some other like instrument, into the face and hands to require medical attendance. He was taken to the hospital as a victim of smallpox. From there it was a comparatively easy matter to escape.

Not only must the prisoner conceal his operations from the guards, but in most cases from his comrades. A number of prisoners planned a tunnel, but the disposal of the dirt proved a great difficulty until one of their number hit upon a plan. The men dug during the night and threw the excavated dirt into an abandoned well. In the daylight they pretended to dig the well for water. The onlookers jeered at them and wagered they would not "discover" water. The suspicions of the guards were allayed by the sallies of the spectators. Finally the tunnel was completed, and about twenty prisoners escaped.

Prisoners Are Now Holding Reunions Throughout Country.

Such are the adventures that are revealed by investigations of the records on this semi-centennial. But many of the best stories are still held in the memories of the living prisoners, and will be related at the reunions to be held during the next few months. In Hartford, Conn., a few days ago, hundreds of former captives, Confederates and Federals alike, sat side by side at the banquet table and recalled their experiences of a half century ago.

Next year thousands of these ex-prisoners-of-war are to journey back to the sites of the old prisons and hold reunions on the historic grounds. The State of New York is now raising funds to take all the survivors from Andersonville down to Georgia, to dedicate a $25,000 monument to their dead comrades.

It is significant that this can be done without any ill-feeling, as every prisoner realizes on this semi-centennial that whatever their hardships may have been they must all be charged up to the wages of war.

Health and Beauty Hints
MRS. MAE MARTYN

Rose: To rid your skin of that shiny, greasy, sallow look and make it appear charming and youthful, you can use nothing better than a lotion made by dissolving 4 ounces spurmax in ½ pint witch hazel (or hot water), then adding 2 teaspoonfuls glycerine. This lotion will clear and whiten your skin, make it smooth and velvety, and give you a beautiful complexion. It costs very little, will not show on the skin like powder does, and, when you wear a veil, will not rub off so easily. This is really a wonderful complexion beautifier, and one which every woman should use.

Phoebe: If a strong light hurts your eyes and makes you squint, you should at once take steps to correct this weakness. Get an ounce of crystos and dissolve it in a pint of water. Put a few drops of this soothing tonic in each eye daily and you will soon find your eyes greatly strengthened, clear and sparkling. No remedy has so far been found to equal this excellent tonic for correcting weak, inflamed eyes. It makes them healthy and strong and is used by many actresses to make their eyes sparkle.

M. W.: To permanently remove those hairs, mix a little powdered delatone with water, then spread on hairy surface. After two or three minutes rub off, wash the skin and the hairs are gone. This is a painless method, and after using the delatone the skin is left soft and without a blemish.

Ruth: For thin eyebrows, rub a little pyroxin on each night with fingertip. Short, straggly lashes can be made to grow in long and curly if you apply pyroxin to lash-roots with thumb and forefinger. When using pyroxin, be careful not to get any where no hair is wanted.

N. B. K.: For your chronic condition of ill health take a tablespoonful of the following tonic before each meal: Dissolve in ½ pint alcohol, ½ cupful sugar and 1 ounce kardene; then add hot water to make a full quart. This excellent system-tonic and blood-purifier gives splendid results in toning up the body, restoring lost appetite and color to the complexion, removing pimples, liver-blotches and sallowness. After taking a few doses you will note a big improvement in the condition of your health. It is a great energizer and health restorer.

Mrs. T. A.: I do not think it necessary for you to consult a physician about your weight. You can easily remove your burdensome fat at small expense by dissolving 4 ounces of parnatis in 1½ pints hot water and taking a tablespoonful before meals. This splendid fat-reducer is very safe to take and will not injure your health. It will leave your skin free from wrinkles and flabbiness. No dieting is necessary.

Ida P.: You can't be too careful about the shampoo you use. Soap and powders should never be used on the scalp. To properly cleanse your hair and scalp without any danger of injury to the hair you will find nothing to equal a teaspoonful of canthrox dissolved in a cup of hot water. Your hair will rinse easily, dry quickly without streaking or brittleness, and take on an added lustre and fluffiness that will last. No shampoo is so effective in removing dandruff, scalp irritation and promoting hair-health by keeping the scalp perfectly clean.

Mrs. S. M.: Your complexion is shiny from the use of greasy cold creams. If you will mix an ounce of almozoin and 2 teaspoonfuls glycerine in ½ pint cold water, and use this greaseless beauty cream night and morning, you will not be bothered with a muddy, greasy complexion. It will make your skin ever so soft, smooth and beautiful. It clears and refines the skin, as no other cream I have ever used will, and is a sure preventive against chapping, blackheads and enlarged pores.

C. W. R.: Oils, vaseline and most of the dope called "hair tonic" will never help your hair and scalp troubles. The best remedy for ridding your scalp of dandruff, itching and stopping your hair from coming out is made by mixing together 1 ounce quinzoin, ½ pint alcohol and ½ pint cold water. This dependable remedy will not make your hair oily or "stringy," but will make it soft and glossy. Used twice a week it keeps the scalp in a healthy condition and promotes a vigorous growth of glossy hair.